Wendell Berry has a resilient belief system regarding technological innovation, specifically computers. He has blatantly and consistently stated that he is personally against reliance on technologies such as these in life. To phrase these beliefs concisely, Berry refuses to buy a computer because he believes technologies such as these support corporations that harm the environment, and he does not want to aid in that. Berry believes these computers cost too much and that the price is not worth the fact that the device itself cannot guarantee any better of a product than older devices. Finally, Berry does not want to have to rely on modernized technologies such as these to live.

We, as a group of individuals, do not believe that technological innovation is always harmful, nor that computers are devices that represent harmful innovation. In many modern instances, technologies such as these aid in our lives, exceeding some of the standards laid by Berry in his article.

In direct regard to his opposition to a personal computer, Berry states that new technologies should be at least as small or smaller than the devices they replace. Many modern computers- mp3s, tablets and laptops- are built for convenience, and therefore are much more compacted than devices used by Berry for his work. Berry also expects that work on newer devices should prove to be considerably better than the product of older ones. While the quality of work is in the eye of the beholder, newer computers enable people to produce work faster and provide more time to better the product, resulting in arguably better work.

While Berry’s beliefs and arguments proved to be valid when published, constant innovation has led to developments that make them arguably invalid. This point leads to the underlying question of whether technological advancement is more harmful or helpful to Berry as an individual and society as a whole. It is our belief that, in today’s world, technology has the potential to do more good than harm. The arguments above prove this, as well as other positive advancements that have been brought about by technological innovation- more efficient communication through cellular technology, quicker and easier access to endless collections of information through the Internet, and many others.

However, we acknowledge that Berry is entitled to his own opinion on this matter and we don’t wish to diminish this. We also concede to the fact that technology can be harmful in certain instances. Studies prove that prolonged exposure to cell phones and ear buds can result in physical impairment. Technology has been shown to reduce social interaction, reduce individual privacy, and escalate national and international tension. However, we believe that the beneficial results outweigh the harmful ones, whether it is worldwide advancement or individual aid.

While he does not imply that it is true for everyone, Berry does seem to believe that technological innovation- specifically proliferation of computers- represents harmful ideas for society. These ideas include social isolation, environmental danger, and more. We simply do not agree.